GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:426
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2000
CLOSURE OF JOGESHWAR COLLIERIES IN BIHAR
NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jogeshwar and `Khaas` Jogeshwar Collieries in Bihar are lying closed for years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the proposal from the Government of Bihar for restarting operation in these collieries is lying pending with the Union Government for a long time for approval;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T.SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (e): Jogeshwar (area about 2.000 acres) and Khas Jogeshwar (area about 680.84 acres)are two closed mines. These two mines having proved coking coal reserves of about 7 mts. could not be nationalised on account of prolonged legal disputes and were under private ownership till 1976 when with the order of Sub-Judge, Hazaribagh, the then Chairman of the Bihar State Minerals Development Corporation(BSMDC) was appointed as receiver and Shri Naresh Deo as AgentUnder this arrangement, mining in Jogeshwar and Khas Jogeshwar continued till 1986 when themining operations were stopped. The workers of these two mines raised an industrial dispute before the Assistant Labour commissioner (ALC), Hazaribagh fortheir continued employment and after several rounds of discussion with the ALC, the Agent of the mines agreed to give employment to the workers as soon as the collieries reopened. Accordingly, a bipartite settlement was signed between the Union of the workers and the Agent on 10.1.89. Thereafter, Government of Biharrequested Ministry of Coal to allow them to open and run these mines through the BSMDC.On account of the restriction on the State Government Undertakings to operatecoking coal reserves as laid down in the 1979 Coal Mining Policy of the Central Government, it has not been possible for Government of India to allow BSMDC, to operate these two mines.